Civil nuclear cooperation agreement

3125. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with whom India has signed Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement since it signed Civil Nuclear Cooperation Treaty with Nuclear Suppliers Group last year;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether India and Canada have agreed to nuclear cooperation; and

(d) if so, the details of the bilateral agreement between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Following the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) decision of September 6, 2008 India has reached civil nuclear cooperation agreements with France, the United States, Russia, Namibia, Mongolia and Argentina. The agreements provide for cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy: inter alia, supply of material, equipment, technology and services including setting up of nuclear power projects; assurances on supply of nuclear fuel and reprocessing rights under IAEA safeguards on nuclear material transferred pursuant to the relevant bilateral agreement.

(c) and (d) Yes. Negotiations on a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with Canada have reached the stage of finalisation. The text follows broadly the template of the previously concluded agreements described above.

Penalty for telecom operators

3126. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed a penalty of over 135.6 crores for telecom operators for not rolling out network on time that includes Rs. 41 crores on TATAs, Rs. 31 crores on Airtel, Rs. 19.65 crores on R. Com and others;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DoT has lowered the total quantum of penalty from Rs. 477 crores decided earlier and after repeated requisition from telecom operators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (d) The amount of revised Liquidated Damages (LD) to be recovered from various Unified Access Service (UAS) Licensees is being worked out as per terms and conditions of amendment dated 10.02.2009. The details will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meetings between India and China

3127. SHRI MANGALA KISAN:

SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two recent meetings between India and China have attenuated the immediate tensions;

(b) the steps Government proposes to end the war of nerves on issues like Dalai Lama and Tawang; and

(c) whether Government admits that Chinese belligerence is not easily comprehensible and its bullying tactics are not going to frighten India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister had a frank and constructive exchange of views on all issues of interest with their Chinese counterparts during their meetings in October, 2009. Both sides agreed to strengthen political trust and understanding and to use the existing mechanisms for bilateral cooperation to resolve all issues amicably in the spirit of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. Government has reiterated its clear and consistent position that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that Dalai Lama is free to visit any part of India, to the Chinese side. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to protect them.

Visit of Richard Holbrooke

†3128. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Richard Holbrooke, the special ambassador of USA was not given permission to visit New Delhi, recently; and

(b) if so, the reasons for turning down the request?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke's proposed visit to India recently was cancelled by the US side themselves.

(b) Does not arise.

Dispute over maritime boundaries with Bangladesh

3129. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have a dispute over maritime boundaries;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh has threatened to take the issue to UN; and

(d) if so, the stand of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) Yes. Government of Bangladesh has referred the issue of demarcation of maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh for arbitration under Article VII of the United Nations on the Law of the Sea. This is a compulsory arbitration procedure.